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PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

Fashion Show Promotes Trade Mark

Through BIZPRO efforts, 15 Ukrainian apparel brands received an opportunity to present new collections of men's, women's and children's clothing to thousands of foreign and domestic buyers, designers, and manufacturers. The *Made in Ukraine: Trade Mark Defile* fashion series took place during March 16-21 as part of Ukrainian Fashion Week. In addition to presentations of apparel industrial brands it featured over 30 collections by Ukrainian clothing designers.



Elleana Fall-Winter Collection at the Trade Mark Defile

The Made in Ukraine fashion series is part of Bizpro's effort to bring Ukrainian fashion designers and apparel manufacturers closer to worldwide wholesalers and retailers, as well as to create synergies and boost the sector's competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets.

BIZPRO works on economic development in Ukraine by helping to improve the ability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to operate and compete in local and international markets.

Ivano-Frankivsk will Finance New Street Lighting with First Municipal Bond

Ivano-Frankivsk citizens will soon have a brighter and safer city, thanks to the city's successful issuance of its first municipal bond on February 28. The city will use the proceeds of the UAH 5.5 million (\$1.1 million) bond to finance street light expansion and new energy-efficient light bulbs. Mayor Zinoviy Shkutyak, Deputy Mayor Oleg Synyutka, and Rick Gurley, chief of USAID's Private Enterprise Division, announced the bond issue at a press conference in Ivano-Frankivsk on March 14. The city plans to install the new lights before the short days of winter return later this year.



Ivano-Frankivsk Municipal Bond

Ten banks competed to fund the borrowing, with Kyiv's Kreschatyk Bank winning with its bid of 12 percent interest. Investors will now be able to buy and sell the bonds on the PFTS First Securities Trading System and will receive interest payments quarterly, while the city will be able to redeem its principal after five years.

Eurasia Foundation and Philip Morris Ukraine Assist the Disabled in Kharkiv Oblast

The Kyiv Regional Office of the Eurasia Foundation (EF) and Philip Morris Ukraine launched a new public-private initiative to improve the lives of disabled people in Kharkiv Oblast. Sustainable Solutions for the Needs of Disabled People will provide needed services such as job placement, social services, and counseling to those with special needs. It will also improve the capacity of local, private charities to provide these services. This way, the initiative will reduce dependence on government assistance by providing the disabled, and the local charities that support them, tools for making sustainable, long-term positive changes in their communities.

The initiative is made possible thanks to a \$100,000 contribution from Philip Morris Ukraine, an affiliate of Philip Morris International, and its parent company, Altria Group, Inc. USAID is supporting the effort with a \$30,000 grant to the Eurasia Foundation.

Vladimir Titov, Manager Corporate Affairs, Philip Morris Ukraine, commented: "Helping the disadvantaged and socially vulnerable citizens of Kharkiv is just one of many things we do out of sincere desire to contribute to the well-being of the region, where most of our employees live and work". Eurasia Foundation's Regional Vice President Dr. Olexiy Haran added, "Innovative partnerships between businesses, governments, and non-governmental charities are critical for helping Ukraine's vulnerable populations."

Independent Broadcasters Prepared for Electoral Campaign

More than 130 managers of private television and radio stations from across Ukraine took part in a series of seminars on "Legal Regulations Affecting Media Work during the Election of Ukrainian Deputies 2006." The Independent Association of Broadcasters (IAB) - an Internews Network U-Media Project partner - organized six seminars as part of election-focused media activities supported by USAID. The series covered all regions of Ukraine and focused on giving managers knowledge of the specific and somewhat complex legal issues surrounding media coverage of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Through these seminars, IAB aimed to unite the media community in the challenging pre-election period. IAB trainers working with participants analyzed the problems the media has faced in previous political campaigns and offered consultations on how media managers can avoid similar pitfalls and mistakes in the future. "These seminars were created to cover the main points of the electoral process. The law should work for mass media, not against it," says Tetyana Fomina, head of IAB's Legal Center.

IAB is the largest professional union of broadcasters in Ukraine, founded in 2000, with more than 120 Ukrainian broadcasting companies registered as members.

Upcoming Events

March 23-24, BIZPRO, Made in Ukraine: Construction Materials Investment Forum, Kyiv.

March 24, BIZPRO, Opening of the Permit-Issuing One-Stop Shop, Donetsk.

March 29, Ukraine Reform Education Program, a National Reform Press Club meeting on "Birds are Coming Back. Is Avian Flu Coming Back as Well?" Kyiv.

March 30, Countering Trafficking in Persons Project, Roundtable on "Life Abroad: Myths and Reality," Donetsk.

March 31, Municipal Budget Reform Project in Ukraine (MBR), a National Advisory Board Meeting, Kyiv.

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MOLDOVA

Moldova: On the Threshold of the Millennium Challenge

Between February 21 and 24, 2006, officials from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the United States Embassy in Chisinau, and USAID/Moldova met with Moldovan ministers and government officials to discuss Moldova's proposal to combat corruption under its new MCC Threshold Country Plan. The group held frank and practical discussions with: President Vladimir Voronin; Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev; Speaker of the Parliament Marian Lupu; and First Deputy Prime Minister Zinaida Greceanii and the National Working Group for Moldova's MCC Threshold Program. The team also met with local NGOs, representatives of the Moldovan business sector, and held an on-the-record discussion with local media representatives.



G. Kevin Saba (right), leader of the MCC Delegation to Moldova, meets Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev (left)

G. Kevin Saba, MCC Threshold Program Managing Director, and leader of the delegation, congratulated Moldova on being the first of the 2006 Threshold Countries to submit its Concept Paper, and declared that, "The Board considers Moldova very close to Compact Status. We are impressed with both the content of Moldova's plan and the initiative displayed in moving so quickly."

The MCC Threshold Program is designed to assist countries that have not yet qualified, but are on the "threshold" of MCC Compact funding. Moldova meets the MCC's Compact criteria in all of the major policy indicators except corruption. Moldova's Threshold Program assistance will be used to implement a multi-pronged strategy for combating

corruption with a focus on procurement, judicial reform, and conflict of interest regulation, along with reducing opportunities for corruption in key sectors such as education, health, and police.

Moldova Begins its Avian Influenza Prevention Training Program with USAID Assistance

Moldova's Ministry of Agriculture and the USAID-funded Agribusiness Development Project (ADP) have launched the Avian Influenza Prevention Training Program with the objective of reaching every household that is raising poultry throughout Moldova. The program, implemented by the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), the National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA), and the Association of Veterinarians of Moldova (AMV), complements the Moldovan Government's efforts to reduce the risk of avian influenza spreading into Moldova.

Over the next three months the trainers will hold 875 seminars in small towns and villages and will distribute 10,000 posters and 100,000 leaflets describing internationally recognized "best practices" that can reduce the possibility of an outbreak of Avian Influenza in Moldova. To underscore these "best practices" and to provide real examples of how to safely raise poultry in private households, the program will establish three model poultry farms. ACSA's regional centers and Moldova's rayon-level veterinarian departments will serve as a continuing resource for the population by providing information on Avian Influenza prevention.

According to Moldovan Minister of Agriculture, Anatolie Gorodenco, "USAID assistance will help Moldova achieve a significant decrease in the number of poultry raised under risk conditions, and will further reduce the potential spread of this disease."

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